

REMARKS

The above-referenced patent application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action, dated May 5, 2005. Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. New claims 3-8 have been added. Claims 2 has been withdrawn; however, it is noted that this will not limit the scope of the remaining claims or result in any prosecution history estoppel, because claims 1 and 3-8 are in many respects broader than cancelled claim 2, therefore it is asserted that canceling claim 2 is not a narrowing amendment.

It is noted that claim 1 has been amended; however, this amendment is not in response to prior art or a rejection or objection from the Examiner. Amended claim 1 has been changed to clarify and, in some respects, to broaden the claims of the above-referenced patent application over those previously presented. It is, therefore, asserted that no prosecution history estoppel results from these amendments. Support for this change is provided throughout the specification, such as pages 7-10.

It is noted that new claims 3-8 have been added. Support for these claims is present throughout the specification, such as at pages 7-10, for example. Likewise, it is asserted that the claims patentably distinguish from the cited patents at least for the reasons discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner allow these new claims to proceed to issuance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439.6500. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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